

The following papers were read and accepted by the Committee for publication in ENTOMOLOGICAL NEWS:

A New Species of *Tropidia* (Syrphidæ) and Note on the Generic Position of *Melanostoma rufipes* Williston.

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NORTH AMERICAN SPECIES OF TROPIDIA.

- 1.—Antennæ black, or nearly so, posterior coxæ of male without spur, dorsum without pollinose markings, scutellum without yellow border; third antennal joint of moderate size. Abdomen with two small reddish spots on anterior corners of the second and third segments; venter largely red. Legs black. **nigricornis** n. sp.
Antennæ yellow, or at most reddish brown 2.
- 2.—Posterior femora of male at base with a strong process, four anterior tibiæ yellow. Abdomen with two interrupted bands; antennæ light ochraceous, dorsum shining blackish bronze . . **mamillata**.
Posterior femora of male without such basal process 3.
- 3.—Antennæ very large, posterior coxæ of male with large obtuse spur. **calcarata**.
Antennæ moderate, not reaching the epistoma 4.
- 4.—Scutellum with yellow margin, face covered with pollen; middle and anterior tibiæ yellow; dorsum of thorax with median pollinose markings **quadrata**.
Scutellum without yellow border, face shining black. Legs black; dorsum without median pollinose markings **incana**.

Tropidia nigricornis n. sp.—Front and vertex shining black with short yellow pile, longer on the vertex; frontal triangle in male silvery sericeous, face in both sexes opaque, less densely sericeous. Face indistinctly obliquely wrinkled, sharply carinate, in male vertical below the antennæ, in female distinctly concave; antennæ black in the female, tinged with reddish in the male; third joint of moderate size, subquadrate, usually obliquely truncate on the outer side; dorsum of the thorax blackish bronze, shining, without pollinose markings, covered with short reddish yellow pile; pleuræ shining, sparsely grayish pilose; scutellum shining black. Abdomen in the female shining black, with a pair of small reddish spots on the anterior corners of the second and third segments; posterior margins of the segments except the first, whitish; last segment short, whitish pilose. In male as in female, except that more or less of segments one, two and three, are opaque. Legs black; middle and anterior knees yellow, all the tarsi slightly tinged with brownish; posterior femora with the usual process, coxæ without spur. Wings hyaline, projecting beyond the tip of the abdomen; venter, except part of first and last segments, bright blood-red (in unfaded specimens). Length 8-8.5mm.

Described from thirteen female and five male specimens taken at Moscow, Idaho, in May, by Prof. Aldrich.

This species is quite distinct from the described species of *Tropidia*, which are included below in the dark antennæ and legs and the absence of the coxal spurs. The pile of the thorax and scutellum indistinctly longer than in *T. incana* Twnds. according to Mr. Snow, who has kindly compared them for me.

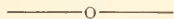
1. *nigricornis* n. sp.
2. *mamillata* Loew, Centur. i, 68, 1861.
3. *calcarata* Will., Synopsis, 208, 1886.
4. *quadrata* Say, Amer. Ent. i, viii, 1824; *ibid.* Comp. Wrts. Lec. i, 14.
5. *incana* Townsend, Trans. Am. Ent. Soc. 1895, 52.
6. *albistylum* Macquart, Dipt. Exot. 2e, Suppl. 60, i, tab. 2, fig. 10, Will. Syn. 207; *ibid.* Ent. News, 1892, 146.

Melanostoma rufipes Will.

The generic position of this species has been doubtful owing to the fact that only the female has been described, and that the only character separating *Melanostoma* from *Platychirus* lies in the anterior tarsi of the male. Dr. Williston says, "Until the male of this species is known its position is somewhat doubtful. Its relationship to *Chilosia* is very strong, but the distinctly banded abdomen would seem to remove it from that genus; possibly it is a *Platychirus*."

I have had the opportunity of examining specimens from the collection of Prof. Aldrich that remove all doubt on this point. The anterior tarsi of the male are not at all dilated, hence Dr. Williston's provisional location of this species in *Melanostoma* is the correct disposition of it. It cannot be a *Chilosia* as there are no traces of the lateral facial sutures that characterize that genus.

These specimens show several differences from the description in color; in fact none of them agrees exactly, but I am unable to discover any substantial structural differences, and hence conclude that this species like the others of the genus is very variable.



ALCIDAMEA PRODUCTA Cress. **AND ITS PARASITES.**

By A. DAVIDSON, M.D., Los Angeles, Cal.

This is one of the more common bees of this district, and may be found over a wide range of territory, nesting freely wherever convenient sites are to be found from the plains around Los Angeles to at least 5000 feet altitude in the Tehachapi Mountains.